

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 13, 14, 20, 27, 28, and 34 have been amended. Claims 31 and 32 have been canceled. Claims 38-58 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement. In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 38-58 in a divisional application.

§ 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 29, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is no antecedent basis for the light referred to in claims 11 and 30, and further that there is no antecedent basis for "the tension in the fiber in the draw process".

In view of the above amendments, it is requested that the rejection of claims 11, 29, and 14 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn. With respect to claim 29, applicants do not understand the rejection, as there does not appear to be any explanation of a rejection that would be pertinent to claim 29.

§ 102 Rejections

In view of the amendments to claims 20-22, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,922,098 (Tsuneishi).

Claim 20 has been amended to require that the tensile stress be applied to the fiber by feeding the fiber through a screener capstan which works in conjunction with another capstan and the tension in the fiber between the screener capstan and the other capstan is monitored and the circumferential speed of the screener capstan is adjusted in response to the monitored tension. There is no mention or suggestion in Tsuneishi of monitoring or adjusting the tension which is applied to the fiber, or of imparting the tension to the fiber using first and second capstans.

§ 103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-6, 18-19, 23, and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,922,098 (Tsuneishi). Claim 1 has been amended to require that the tensile stress is imparted to the fiber via a first and second capstan, and the fiber tension between the capstans is monitored, and the speed of one of the capstans is adjusted in response to the monitored tension. There is no mention or suggestion in Tsuneishi of monitoring or adjusting the tension which is applied to the fiber in response to a monitored tension to maintain a desired tensile screening force, nor is there any mention or suggestion of imparting the tension to the fiber using first and second capstans.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 13-17, and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,601,208 (McKay). McKay applies a tension to the fiber by a pair of pulleys. However, there is no mechanism described, mentioned, or suggested in McKay for monitoring the tension which is actually imparted to the fiber between the two pulleys and then adjusting the speed of one of the pulleys in response to that measured tension. In fact, as explained at column 2, lines 42-56, a toothed transmission band 30 is employed between the two pulleys 10 and 12 “to ensure that the two pulleys 10 and 12 rotate at identical rotational velocities.” (emphasis added)

Additionally, with respect to claims 4 and 6, these claims require that the fiber be wound onto a spool which enables access to both ends of the fiber while the fiber is retained on the spool. There is no mention or suggestion of utilizing a process such as defined in any of the independent claims of applicants invention and using a spool which enables access to both ends of the fiber while the fiber is retained on the spool.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been considered and applicants submit that this prior art is no more pertinent than the art relied upon by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action.

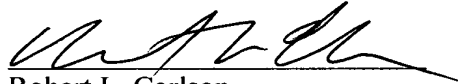
Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. For all of the above reasons, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is

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earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that a one (1) month extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Robert L. Carlson at 607-974-3502.

Respectfully submitted,



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